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the Martlet

The student newspaper of the University of Victoria since 1948

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concept & design by David Low

Groove Fest set for UVic

The V-alternative Groovefest is an upcoming fundraising event hosted by a coalition of student organization at UVic, who are coming together in an effort to raise money and awareness for anti-oppression organizations both inside and outside the university community. The evening will be a celebration and an affirmation of diverse groups of peoples who often fall outside of, or are opposed by the mainstream.

Fifty per cent of the money raised will go to the UVSS Women's Center, the UVSS Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance and the Women of Colour Collective. The other 50 per cent will benefit the Women of Our People Native Women's Sexual Assault Center.

This organization assists First Nations women in dealing with issues of violence against women, wife battering, sexual assault and court accompaniment, on or off the reserve, status or non-status.

The show takes place the evening of Feb. 14 (Valentine's Eve) at Vertigo, located in the student union building. Approximately 30 of Victoria's local artists and fashion designers have come together to produce an anti-fashion show, that will not only showcase local talent, but is designed to challenge mainstream constructions of what we should wear, and what our bodies should look like. There will also be a silent art auction featuring local artists, various speakers and Victoria's hottest hip-hop band, DIGG, as well as two local DJ's.

This evening promises to be outlandish, funky and tremendous fun.

Doors open at 9:00 p.m. and show starts at 10:00 p.m. Tickets are $4 in advance or $5 at the door. They can be purchased at Secondhand Rose's Originals and at Earthenwear, as well as through the Women's Centre, LGBA and individual organizers. ▼

What is the LGBA?

by Daniel Cunningham

I have been asked to explain why the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance has a board of directors. I am uniquely qualified to do this as I am the former social director for the LGBA and I was the first person to be elected from within the LGBA to sit on the Board of Directors of the UVic Students' Society to specifically represent the interests of the LGBA.

In essence, the board of the LGBA exists to provide a shield against the outside world for every member of the LGBA.

It is the job of the executive of the board, namely the chair, social director and political director, to be the most out, visible students on campus. The entire board is responsible for the planning and execution of social and political events of campus, with emphasis placed more on the social events.

The LGBA exists to provide a safe, comfortable place for people who have alternate sexual orientations to come and meet other people, perhaps make friends, and eventually form relationships with each other.

While it is also the LGBA's mandate to participate and orchestrate political protests and campaign to raise awareness of homosexual issues, the bulk of that work falls squarely on the shoulders of the board members, with no expectations placed on general members at all.

The LGBA is always looking for new members. So if you feel like trying something safe and non-threatening, drop by the office sometime, or drop by a social meeting (the date and time is always posted on the office door) or give us a call and we can arrange for a confidential meeting at a time and place of your choosing.

Our phone number is 472-4393 and our room number is B118 in the Student Union Building. Hope to see you soon. ▼

Web offers Queer info

by John Trueman

The advent of the Internet has helped address the problem of isolation and has opened up communication lines among the queer community. Millions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people of all origins and lifestyles can now be linked through e-mail, newsgroups, chat rooms, and web sites. The computer medium can offer confidentiality and relative safety that may not otherwise be available in the outside world.

One of the leading queer youth support areas on the Internet is the soc.support.youth.gay-lesbian-bi newsgroup, carried on most USENET servers. "The whole purpose is to offer a safe, comfortable place for gay youth to discuss and explore their sexual orientation," said Kalev Hunt, a computer science student at UBC and one of three moderators of the group.

Messages in the newsgroup range from inquiries about laws, programs and services for queer youth, to requests for advice on relationships, coming out and dealing with parents. Postings in the group this past week, for example, included a high school teacher asking about educational programs for GLBT youth; a young person inquiring if there are any laws against cross-dressing; and a 16-year-old bisexual girl asking for advice on coming out in her homophobic school.

Such messages will often attract hundreds of replies, both in the group and private e-mail. The supportive atmosphere is maintained by the newsgroup's unique structure. "Unlike most of the newsgroups on the Internet, ssyglb is moderated," explains Hunt. "Every post that is submitted to the group is first mailed to one of the moderators for approval. If the post doesn't get approved, it never shows up on the group."

Although some decry the moderation system as censorship, Hunt says that maintaining the safe atmosphere of the group is more important. "That sort of environment is destroyed the moment we let a homophobe post a 'All Fags Die!' type of post. The youth on our group are faced with all kinds of hatred and intolerance in their daily lives. Our purpose is to provide a supportive alternative to societal intolerance." ▼

Queer Internet Links

UVic Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Alliance
http://kafka.uvic.ca/~lgba/
Somewhat outdated, but worth a look.

The Canadian Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Resources Directory
http://www.cglbrd.com/
Resources of all types categorized by province and city.

PFLAG (Parents, family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) - Canadian Listing
http://www.cglbrd.com/categories/pflag.htm

Gay Victoria
http://www.gayvictoria.com/
Victoria's central site for queer info. Host for the Pink Pages, the Vancouver Island directory of businesses, organizations and resources serving the GLBT community.

Queer Resources Directory
http://www.qrd.org/QRD/
The oldest and most complete listing of queer resources around the world.

Ssyglb Home Page
http://www.youth.org/ssyglb/
Information on the soc.support.youth.gay-lesbian-bi newsgroup, including information on how to post and what postings are accepted.

Youth Action Online
http://www.youth.org/
General information, support and resources for queer youth.

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MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

MYTH 1: *People choose to be homosexual.*
TRUTH: Given the difficulties that most gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people face in their lives, and if being "queer" was a choice, then very few people would choose to be "queer." Rather, the evidence is that sexuality is likely determined early in infancy, if not before birth, or genetically determined. The question could be posed: do heterosexuals choose *their* own orientation.

MYTH 2: *Homosexuality is abnormal, deviant or a disease.*
TRUTH: The general consensus among modern mental health professionals is that homosexuality is not neither abnormal nor deviant. Nor is it in any way a disease, and any attempts at a "cure" invariably produce negative effects with little or no impact on the person's actual sexual orientation. The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of disorders in 1973.

MYTH 3: *All religions and cultures condemn homosexuality.*
TRUTH: The treatment of homosexuals varies between cultures: for example, Buddhism does not condemn homosexuality. Homosexuality has also had an elevated status in some First Nations' societies prior to the arrival of Christian missionaries. In these aboriginal societies, people who were not heterosexual were called "two-spirited", and were sometimes referred to as "the chosen ones."

MYTH 4: *Homosexuality is contrary to scripture.*
TRUTH: Actually, this is true. So are shaving, the eating of pork, and the wearing of mixed fibers. Today, however, many churches of all faiths endorse same-sex unions. On another note: the word "homosexual" did not appear in any translation of the Christian Bible until 1946.

MYTH 5: *Homosexuals are pedophiles.*
TRUTH: Most child sexual abuse is heterosexual (about 90 per cent, and 96 per cent of child molesters identify themselves as heterosexual). There is absolutely no connection between the gay community and the abuse of children.

MYTH 6: *All homosexuals are promiscuous.*
TRUTH: Of the 1,266 lesbians and gay men who took part in a survey in 1988 conducted by the Partners Task Force:

- 55% of gay men were in a steady relationship.
- 71.2% of lesbians were in a steady relationship.
- On average, homosexual couples had been together for 6 years.
- Less than 10% were unsatisfied with their sexual relationship.
- 45% of the partners reported no previous relationship.
- 96.4% said they were *monogamous*.

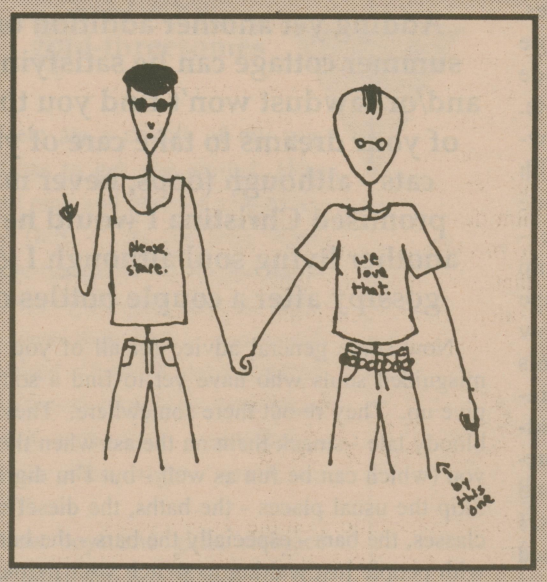
MYTH 7: *Homosexual parents will raise their children to be gay.*
TRUTH: The frequency of homosexuality amongst children raised by homosexuals is equal to the frequency of homosexuality amongst children raised by heterosexuals. As well, a review of nine studies of aspects of personal development, such as self-concept, moral judgment, and intelligence, revealed no significant difference between children of homosexuals and children of heterosexuals. ▼

(Adapted from UBC GALA leaflet)

Many gay men will count straight women among their friends, and many lesbians will befriend gay men - but almost nobody hangs out with straight guys.

Single Queer Mom Tells All... (Julian and I have a conversation)

by Julian and I



J: But only single in the sense of "single mom."

I: Yeah, cuz I'm with you.

J: So...queer...mom...welfare...

I: Where should we start? I have two kids. I'm the only queer woman with kids in my community. I'd like for other queer moms to be in my community but it would be presumptuous to say they are.

I know a queer woman who's doing what I was doing until recently - living with a man who fathered one of her kids. And desperately trying to make it work for the sake of - someone.

J: Who knows who.

I: That TV ideal, there's the dad, there's the mom... She's like me also in that she was a single queer mom first and then she got into a het relationship and now she's trying to co-raise her kid.

I think a lot of queer women get into that situation.

J: Why is that? Social pressure to be with a man and provide a Male Role Model? Financial reasons?

I: Getting into the situation in the first place and staying are two completely different things. I still don't know why I stayed. I guess I never will. Financial, sure - I did have a greater disposable income in a het relationship. Having been extremely poor since I was 19 years old, which was when I was pregnant with my son - he had a job. For the first time in my adult life there was money for extras - like Christmas. For the first time in my life I didn't have to give up early in January.

Tremendous pressure. I told you this before - when I got together with him, my mom said she was so glad because she didn't have to worry about me any more.

I was safer on my own than I ever was with him.

Tin plate or bowl? Welfare mom special. Kraft dinner from the food bank. Fork or spoon? Ketchup? HP?

J: I'm good thanks.

I: There's a really great quote in my journal. How about if I read it to you?

> "The necessary double life means that the Gay person can never simply stand flat-footed on the earth; there are always two people operating in one body, and one of them is a liar."
> (Judy Graham)

I used to not be prepared to be out. I wasn't out to myself until two and a half years ago. I knew I was queer and I wasn't ready to be queer. There's safety in the het privilege thing.

J: Only not really, right? Not for women...

I: No. It ended up being a lot more violent for me, psychologically, emotionally, personally than being out ever will be. So I'm happier. A lot. I feel so much better. I'm not really sure my kids do, though. But they will. They're just not used to having a dyke mom.

J: It's a lot better and safer for them - even if they don't know.

I: They can analyze queerness from a straight perspective, straightness from a queer perspective - the best of both worlds.
(pause. Listen to music).
I really like Joey Ramone's???? voice.

J: Yeah.

I: Let's finish this so we can go fool around, ok? The kids aren't here. We're wasting time.

Finis ▼

Queer programming on CFUV FM102

This Way Out
1-1:30pm the international gay and lesbian radio magazine from Los Angeles with news, interviews and features from across North America and around the world.

Monday

Dyke Dimension
8-9pm Upcoming events and issues of interest to Victoria's dyke community

Tuesday

Queer & Present Danger
8:30-9pm Vancouver Island's bitchiest, sauciest, in-yer-face queer radio show

CFUV FM102
101.9FM 104.3 Cable

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by nature

SAFE
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AIDS Vancouver Island

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The bitch is BACK, and she needs a man

Dame Daniella's Gossip Column

I think that in the past year I have tried to deal with some very serious issues, the more painful side of queer life. The following deals with the lighter side of queer life - high camp (actually, I hope it's rather low camp). **Warning: this article contains statements that some might consider offensive. For those of you who are humour-impaired, please skip to my closing salutation.** (And "TTFN" means "ta ta for now" you filth minded perverts, I mean really, I am a lady). Good, the wankers have pissed off. Dame Daniella can slip off the clever wig that conceals her long, beautiful, red tresses and slip into her beautiful size 13 green velvet pumps (oops, a lady never discusses her pump size in public, excuse me). And now, a sprinkling of fairy dust to lighten up your dismal, dull, drab little existences.

(Again, warming up the, ahem, major muscle groups with the help of a close friend and some massage oil and - ooh, is it getting warm in here or is it just me?)

First, some fashion advice. Boys - let me make this painfully clear - the West Coast hiker look is dead (or will be once I finish tap dancing over it in my spiked heels). Darlings, find something sexy in velvet, satin, latex and/or leather (silk is nice but solely wearing boxers is still considered gauche in the better circles, at least in public). For those of you who are really physically fit and trim - the tighter the pants and top, the better. Spandex can be fun (especially for onlookers, but I digress). For those of you who aren't quite in peak physical condition, squats, with a friend, can be a great deal of fun. Oh, and remember dears, always practice safe squatting - warm up for at least ten minutes beforehand (again, warming up the, ahem, major muscle groups with the help of a close friend and some massage oil and - ooh, is it getting warm in here or is it just me?)

Ladies - I know that fixing the exhaust manifold on your truck or adding yet another addition onto the summer cottage can be satisfying but oil and/or sawdust won't find you the woman of your dreams to take care of your five cats - although (oops, never mind - I promised Christina I would never tell another living soul although I get quite gossipy after a couple bottles of gin). Again, velvet, satin, leather and/or latex - you can't go wrong. The occasional boustier works wonders as well - if you've got the assets use 'em girl! A riding crop can make for an intriguing fashion accessory (and can be fun to play with after you've finished unloading her U-Haul). Thigh-high boots are definitely eye-catching, and once you've grown tired of the butch hairdo, try playing around with hair extensions - they can be fun to play with and don't require any kind of commitment.

Adding yet another addition onto the summer cottage can be satisfying but oil and/or sawdust won't find you the woman of your dreams to take care of your five cats - although (oops, never mind - I promised Christina I would never tell another living soul although I get quite gossipy after a couple bottles of gin).

Now some general advice for all of you dear, darling, misguided souls who have yet to find a soulmate - don't give up. They're out there somewhere. They're just really bloody late - smack them on the ass when they finally find you (which can be fun as well - but I'm digressing again). Skip the usual places - the baths, the diesel engine repairs classes, the bars - especially the bars - the bars are overrun with people just waiting to snatch your partner-to-be (no, I won't go there - the previous comment is way too easy to joke about - use your own imagination on this one). Social groups, like the LGBA, are better but you have to get in at the start of the social season - members of groups like the LGBA have this intensely annoying habit of pairing up - you don't want to be the odd person out (although threesomes can be fun - but again I digress - my mind tends to wander these days - old age you know - I'm 22, over the hill, oops I meant 18 - and if you believe that one then you'll also believe that I'm a member of the foot-long club-whoops, I already said I wouldn't talk about pump size - sorry for shocking display of vulgarity - it just slipped out - the gay equivalent of a straight boy farting).

My personal favorite cruising places, I mean places to find soulmates, are either conferences (if it's a mistake you never have to see them again) or bus stops (ditto - it's also where I met my current companion).

"Het boys, watch out - Dame Danielle is on the prowl - rowrrrrr!"

Finally some advice about life. We live in a straight world, for the most part, and it can get rough. But all we need to do when that happens is sprinkle a little fairy dust and everything will be fine. Girls, give that asshole homophobe down the block a bit of advice on his carburetor - or swap hunting stories. Before you know it he'll be a good drinking buddy. Boys, offer to help that homophobic cow up the street with her slip covers for her old sofa. You'll have her home in *Canadian Living* in no time and she'll be your devoted fag hag for the rest of your life. As for the rest of society - if we can't befriend them then we'll just have to recruit them. This is a call to arms - for the good of society sleep with all of your straight friends. I'm willing to make the ultimate sacrifice - I'll sleep with as many straight men as I possibly can - the sacrifices I make for the good of society, sigh. Het boys, watch out - Dame Daniella is on the prowl - rowrrrrrr!

"If we can't befriend them then we'll just have to recruit them"

On that note, I think it's time for me to gracefully sashay through the exit door (I do get so tired of these dingy stairwells). I leave with one serious tidbit of advice. Remember, boys and girls, there are some pretty nasty viruses kicking around out there so play safe. Use latex for safety and fun as well as a fashion statement.

TTFN
Dame Daniella
AKA Daniel Cunningham ▼

Does It Matter?

My father asked if I am gay.
I said Does it matter?
He said, No not really.
I said Yes.
He said Get out of my house.
I guess it mattered.

My friend asked if I am gay.
I said, Does it matter?
He said, No not really.
I said Yes.
He said Don't call me your friend.
I guess it mattered.

My boss asked if I am gay.
I said Does it matter?
He said No not really.
I said Yes.
He said You're fired faggot.
I guess it mattered.

My lover asked if I love him.
I said Does it matter?
He said Yes.
I told him I love you.
He said Let me hold you in my arms.
For the first time in my life something matters.

My God asked me Do you love yourself?
I said Does it matter?
He said Yes.
I said How can I love myself? I am gay.
He said That is the way I have made you
Nothing again will ever matter.

~ Anonymous high school student.

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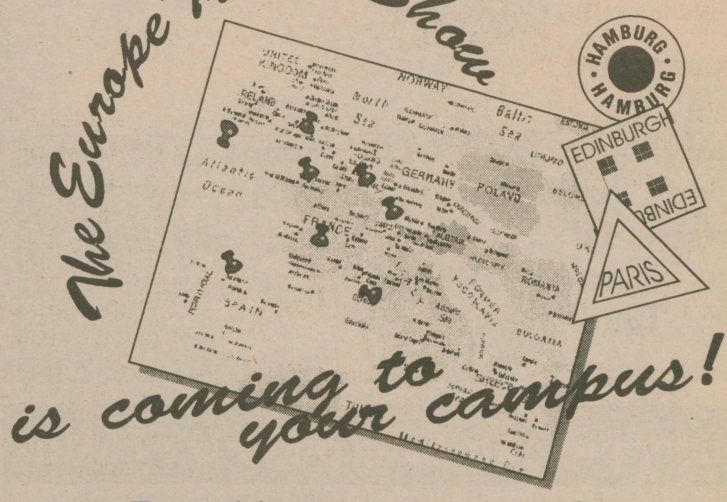

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Living in a predominantly hetero society

Anonymous

Pain is something that everyone in the queer community faces on a daily basis. Let's face it - the straight community, as well as every community. The world is a rough place - no one escapes unscathed. It would be a pretty boring place without a little pain to make the good times feel even sweeter.

But the pain I'm talking about is raw, gaping agony - the kind that wounds terribly and leaves horrible scars on the psyche and soul.

It's the kind of pain that drives people to swallow lethal concoctions or slit their wrists. I speak on this subject as one of the people who has survived their teen years.

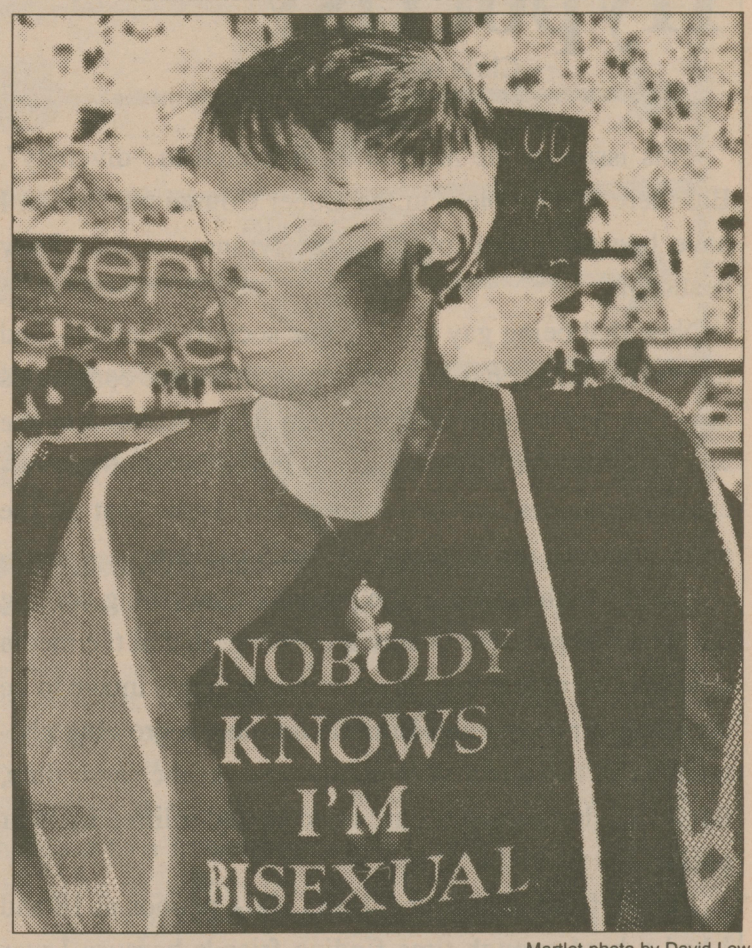
A lot of us don't. Thirty-five per cent of all teen suicides are because teens can't deal with their homosexuality.

Growing up as an Other in North American society exacts a price. The survivors of teenhood are the people I call the walking wounded.

They may look alright - happy, energetic, carefree. But inside they're crippled, scarred, maimed.

They're bleeding to death. Some of us are lucky - we heal, eventually. Some of us don't - and we die. Drugs, alcohol, suicide, AIDS - one of the fastest growing infection groups now is gay men between the ages of 15 and 24 - they're deliberately letting themselves become infected or they just don't care, don't take precautions and become infected anyway. It is hard growing up in a society that teaches you to hate yourself.

To the heterosexual reading this paper, I want you to realize something. You are part of a society which is responsible for the deaths and terrors experienced by so many of your peers. Our blood is on your hands. ▼



Martlet photo by David Low

A participant in last year's Gay Pride Parade

Repugnant Ringma

by Rebecca Whitley

By now most of us are familiar with the infamous Bob Ringma, who in 1994 described the gay community as "repugnant."

Recently, the Nanaimo-Cowichan MP resigned as party whip for the Reform party after his statements regarding gays and blacks drew a mass of negative feedback.

The Reform party has been attempting to dodge the redneck label by dismissing MPs left, right and centre (make that **right**, **right** and **right**) such as David Chatters for making racist comments.

Bob Ringma put his **right** foot in his mouth in 1996 when he stated that "if I had a business and a homosexual was working there for me and he was responsible for my losing business, then indeed I would think of letting him go."

He had also suggested that an employer should be able to fire or move "to the back of the shop" a gay or visible minority employee if their presence was losing the business of bigoted customers.

"If I had a business and a homosexual was working there...I would think of letting him go."
- Bob Ringma

While Bob Ringma has been reprimanded by substantial public outcry, he has also been referred to by deputy leader, Deborah Grey as "a good Reformer and a team player."

His resignation as party whip was accompanied by an extensive apology and much backtracking and Ringma stated that his "basic message was for goodness sake we are all equal. We should all be treated equally in Canada." Wouldn't that be nice!?!

Bob "back of the store" Ringma

This apology has drawn serious criticism by gay and minority rights groups who doubt his sincerity. Elizabeth Hargeaves, of the Central Island Gay and Lesbian Association, isn't too impressed by the apology. "It's too little too late. You've got to question if he means it. We've gone through this before," said Hargeave.

Bob Ringma claims to have grassroots support but many groups have organized to show their dissatisfaction with his intolerance.

As part of the Day Without Hate, Feb.14, several groups, including women's centers, socialist groups, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual groups, labour groups and student unions have organized a demonstration at Bob Ringma's office in Nanaimo.

There are buses available to take all of you socially conscious people to Nanaimo on Friday morning.

You can sign up for a seat on the bus in the LGBA office (or give us a dingle at 472-4393) and the bus leaves from Ring Road at 10:30 a.m. to make the 12:30 p.m. demonstration.

There will be speeches by local activists so come prepared to be loud and obnoxious. ▼

Heterosexism on the airwaves

by Phyllis Kahn

While I was waiting for the show "Queer and Present Danger" on CFUV last November, a DJ on the preceding program introduced "Somebody Stole My Gal" featuring a female vocalist. He prefaced the intro by adding that the singer substituted the word "pal" for "gal" in the song and emphasized that there was nothing queer about her. I was under the impression that the DJ had a negative attitude toward queers. His statement certainly had a derogatory connotation in my opinion.

Substituting the word "pal" for "gal" to avoid suggesting the possibility of love between women illustrates heterosexism. Such a view devalues and in this instance denies homosexual love. However love transcends gender and defies homophobic rules. And heterosexual love is not superior to homosexual love, not by any stretch of the imagination. Furthermore, queer means normal in a fucked-up society.

Needless to say, I found it offensive to be subjected to heterosexist allusions on the airwaves, particularly coming from UVic's alternative radio station. However, homophobia can be unlearned. There is an LGBA on campus as well as P-Flag, a straight organization in town. These agencies provide accurate information and support for those who endeavour to comprehend the issues facing friends, relatives and or associates in the gay community. ▼

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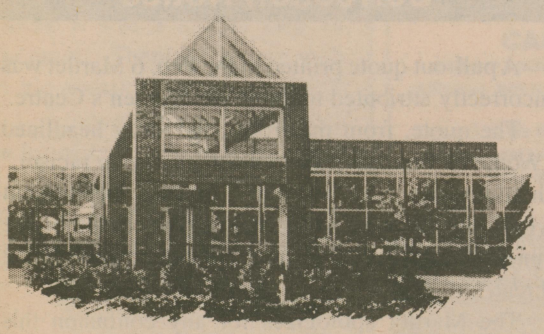

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THE MARINA RESTAURANT

EDITORIAL

Hypocrisy

- Chris Moon

This issue of *the Martlet* is dedicated to "diversity". But there is a problem in the Queer Community which I have become aware of. It is the tyranny of the "body beautiful."

Now that being gay has become socially tolerable, and the buying power has been recognized, we see companies targeting gay people, and gay men in particular. Anyone who has seen the articles and ads in the flood of gay oriented magazines and newspapers will know that all the males pictured are muscular, tanned, and thin.

Queer youth have enough pressure concerning coming out, and this pressure is now increasing, in that the media now tells them that they must conform to this image to be accepted. Anorexia and Bulimia are now a growing phenomena in the queer community, and, at the same time, those that don't conform are rejected and vilified by their peers.

I know from experience. I was 200+ pounds at 18 and I had a hard enough time finding friends because I was over-weight. My self-loathing for my weight and my homosexuality led me to nearly commit suicide.

I'm now 150 pounds and working out at the gym. I didn't do this for my health. I did this to conform.

There are people I know today who have not conformed and they are forced to suffer for it. In the group of friends that I have, one is very heavy and has few queer people who will associate with him. They feel awkward around him; they say that he annoys them. Generally the reasons are punctuated by reference to his appearance: "he breaths heavy, sleeps a lot, etc...."

Maybe it isn't he who has the problem: we do. We judge his character and competence as a person in general by the nature of his weight. He, in turn, senses this scorn and is defensive and shy. Who wants to feel rejected?

This tyranny of "body beautiful" has led to the exclusion and vilification of many wonderful people, and for what! We as a community demand respect and tolerance from society, while, at the same time, we are actively destroying the diversity of the community in which we live. What hypocrites we are!

Everyone thinks of themselves (in this community) as having a privileged perspective on persecution. But some of us can be the most viscous and petty discriminators ourselves. Some of the most serious racists and sexists I have met in my queer lifetime have been gay or bisexual.

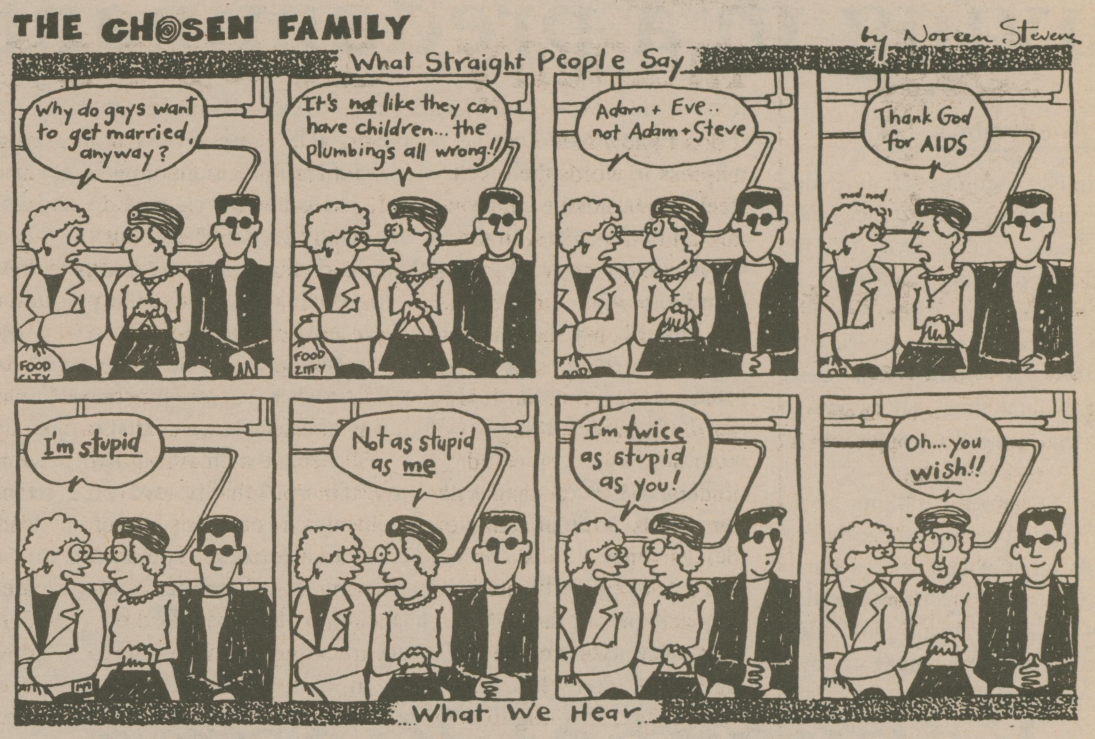
So, yes, there is immense diversity in our community, but not all of it is good.

If we want a standard to conform to it should be one of tolerance and acceptance of all people regardless of size, shape, colour, smell, and texture.

Beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder, and we as a community are in the process of having our view of beauty manipulated by a bunch of capitalists who seek to use and reinforce biased ideas of sexuality, and to use that to sell products.

They have no care about how much havoc they wreak. But we should.

Editorial topics are decided by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Martlet, *SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members; opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.*


THE CHOSEN FAMILY
by Noreen Stevens
What Straight People Say
Why do gays want to get married, anyway?
It's not like they can have children... the plumbing's all wrong!!
Adam + Eve.. not Adam + Steve
Thank God for AIDS
I'm stupid
Not as stupid as me
I'm twice as stupid as you!
Oh... you wish!!
What We Hear

Comic courtesy of ***Xtra West***

The *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will undertake to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be **TYPEWRITTEN** (you can use *Martlet* computers), submitted on disk, or e-mailed, and include your name and phone number for verification. **LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM.** Letters will be reviewed for libel at the *Martlet* editorial meeting, Monday at 4 p.m. on the week of publication. Deadline is Monday noon. Letters will be prioritized in the order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Announcements will be directed to billboards. Letters can be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3, dropped off at SUB B011 or e-mailed to martlet@uvic.ca.

"A Half-Confession"

Yes, I *am* gay, thank-you for asking. I don't necessarily try to hide it, but if you don't ask, then I usually won't tell. My God, I must be in the US army! No, at the army *I'm* attending they call you student, not private. That's right, it's the good ole University of Victoria I'm talking about.

The don't ask, don't tell policy that I happen to use isn't what you would call an "in the closet" maneuver, because I really wouldn't mind coming out to my friends and family. Boy, the looks on their faces would be *priceless*! (although, from what they all know about me, I don't think they'd be very surprised).

Mind you, I used to mind a lot! I guess I'm not as paranoid as I was in puberty. I'm not a teenager anymore, and I don't plan on ever becoming one again! Hormones On Parade *again*? NO THANKS! I really hated those unexpected hard-ons in the middle of English class - or worse, in PE! Jogging pants can make for a really embarrassing tent! But I digress...

> Needless to say, many of my girlfriends thought my "morals" were outstanding, though a little extreme (*go figure!*)

Growing up in a very heterosexual community can really give a gay teenager something to worry about in terms of his/her situation. The only time that I ever heard homosexuality being acknowledged was when the news reported a gay bashing, or some other prejudiced atrocity to build either more indifference or sympathy towards the gay population. I didn't want people to feel *sorry* for me! I just wanted them to understand and accept me without the threat of violence hanging over my head (like *that* was ever going to happen - or at least that's what I thought!). Basically, just like any teenager, I *really* wanted to fit in. And that's why I kept it to myself; much worse, I went so far as to attempt acting straight! Needless to say, many of my girlfriends thought my "morals" were outstanding, though a little extreme (*go figure!*). "You want me to put *what where? !* " Thank God for adulthood! - ?

In a vague sort of way, there are two main reasons as to why I haven't outed yet. One is a warped personal opinion, the other is a warped sense of common courtesy. Hopefully, some of you out there understand what I'm talking about.

My personal view is that I'm majoring in business where sex and sexuality don't exist (except, of course, in the disguise of office politics!). There's simply no need for me to mention it to my classmates - it'd be really difficult to relate finance to sex, *unless* it was off the record over a bottle of wine. Retractable bonds - are they some pair of elasticized handcuffs??? What beautiful ASSet you have! Is it a FIRM or a legal TENDER?? Vertical merger? Mmmmm, that sounds fun!! Foreign bonds sound strangely like S&M with a Frenchman. But seriously, though...

My warped sense of common courtesy is that I realize some people simply do not *want* to know. If they want to believe that every person in the world is a well-fed, twenty - something, middle-class white heterosexual upstanding citizen that goes to the gym five times a week, then that is their prerogative. If they choose to live a totally sheltered life, then far be it from me to shatter it.

I just felt compelled to say something on behalf of the gays and lesbians out there who choose to live the way I do: without the obsession of pretending you're straight, as well as not feeling the need to frolic joyously around the center green, foolishly parading yourself in front of the student population. My opinion is that parades are good, *parading* is bad.

And for those of you breeders living in the dark ages, my sincerest apologies. I am so sorry that I temporarily subjected you to the reality of society. You can go back to your fairytale stories of GQ and Cosmo now; that place where people are so far removed from reality that you can't help but shrine them. God forbid if Jennifer Anniston or Keanu Reeves ever outed themselves on cable TV! Your world would practically crumble around you!

> My opinion is that parades are good, *parading* is bad.

Believe it or not, I truly am proud of who I am and of what I've achieved so far in this life. I think that I've grown up pretty well. Unfortunately, this semi-twisted society still makes me feel a *bit* apprehensive about letting people know exactly what I'm about. Which is why I'm not attaching my real name to this article.

But hopefully, someday soon, when the time is right, I won't ever have to use my pseudonym again.

Barmix

Correction Notice

A pull-out quote printed in the Feb. 6 Martlet was incorrectly attributed to the UVic Women's Centre.

The quote, from the front page story headlined "Women's Studies criticized for inertia on racism," should read: "The Women's Studies Department would not respond to the demands because of the "undemocratic tone of the document and veiled threat."

The Martlet apologizes for any confusion this error may have caused.

The Märtlet

Quote of the week:

"Homosexuals make up the only minority whose primary oppression is their invisibility."

–Dennis Altman, 1982

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The Martlet **is an incorporated BC Society and a full member of Canadian University Press (CUP). Our purpose is to act as an agent of constructive social change. We will not print racist, sexist, or homophobic copy.**

mummy dearest,

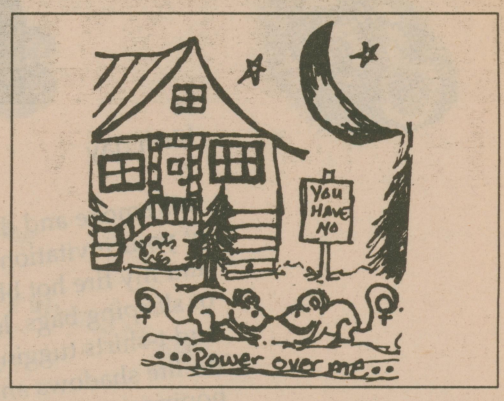
i don't know how i can express in words the way i feel. anger, hostile emotions are all that manifest in the physical. crying, yes, crying, that happens to....too much. my anger is my sadness, sadness that i cannot share with you. maybe i can, but it is hard; the hardest thing i'll ever do. i wish you could understand. understand without words, without action or defensiveness. i just can't see it happening. "there is no gay gene in our family!" that's you. you are the aggressor, all my life, i am the pasifist, anything to avoid conflict. your conflict - turning me into you. i am not you, and i need to feel like i am not you, to feel free. the real me is hiding within, fighting for HER life, struggling to "come out", to be free of all the demons that are what i have been, what i am now. utter turmoil, dissatisfaction hatred of who i am, of who i project myself to be, of who i have allowed myself to become. blaming you is not the answer, facing you is part of the solution. will you understand? even try? i cannot answer that because i am not you, i will never be you, never live up to what you think i should be.

i cower at the thought of expressing myself, my life to you. your acceptance is all i want and what i seldom get. if you knew my life would you still love me? yes. but would you accept me? that is the risk, the vital factor that prevents me from myself. your disapproval, the thing that tears me apart more that any attack or knife could do. will i create mental anguish within you? that is not my intent. i do not wish for you what i already suffer. i am too young to feel the way i do, and too old to be afraid of expressing it to you. i have felt this way for as long as i can remember. when did i become afraid of you? "homosexuality is just a fad" i remember.

i have an entirely different person within, one you have not touched. SHE will not let herself be destroyed without a chance to live. i love HER but i repress HER because i do not think you will like HER, love HER, the real me, your real child who wants so much to be loved. SHE has allowed HERSELF to be gagged and tied like a prisoner. SHE is angry now, pacing inside me, ready to explode - "HEAR I AM! LOVE ME I'VE FINALLY 'COME OUT!'" screaming, SHE is screaming, depressed SHE is repressed. afraid, i'm afraid. why am i so afraid? why are you so afraid? why is SHE so afraid? Nothing can prepare you for HER, i used to think you were strong, but you have your demons to, pounded down deep inside, just like SHE is. there is no way for you to prepare for her, for what She might say, who she is, your DAUGHTER. "you don't still hang out with all those gays do you?" your daughter is a lie. "none of your roommates are lesbians are they?"

SHE talks to you in my dreams, says things i would never dare say, things i would like to forget, things you do not want to know. untie ME SHE says, let ME live. i want her to live, but there is always the fear. "our family is strong, you don't talk about these things. you push them down, down deep". I have a mountain to the sky, and SHE wants to knock it down. who will sink into the rubble? you?me?HER?none? unpredictability, chaos. that is life, and so it shall be. Mummy dearest, your DAUGHTER is QUEER. who will be destroyed and who will survive? LOVE, lets hope LOVE will always survive.

love, mouse



So Now What?

You're in University, casting ideas, designing future paths, sexually empirical, yet the unendurable feeling of "not belonging" persists. What whatever shall you do?

The answer; resisit negotiation - live without boundaries, second thoughts, or regrets. Make your dreams manifest by sheer force, for no one will (or can) oppose your determination. Be strong, believe in yourself, and destroy the opposition. Never take no for an answer. Look at the world in different ways. Let people call you a bastard, a bitch, or maybe even detestable. Just remember your insufferably unique, maybe a radical. Agitate things a little, then lead by example. Be good, bad, evil, and righteous. Above all else, no matter what anyone may say, you are "Dangerous", because you are "yourself"!

Thank you
Christian André
(Artist)

Student Voice

Common ground

-natalie rae

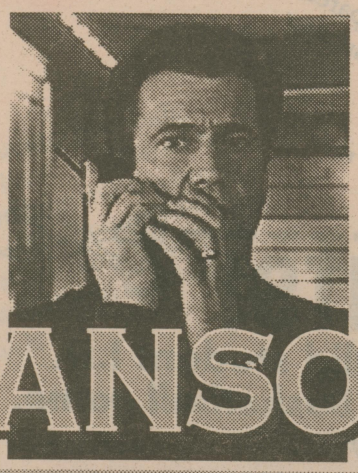
finding community within the queer community is, as unbelievable as it may seem, has been extremely difficult for many queer women - meaning dykes and bisexuals. i have struggled for the last three years to find my place in the Victoria queer community, and finally i have. a community of queers, of dykes, of self defined women, strong women.

that's where i live. women who love women who love to love women; but how can we not. all there is in life is here - love, joy. sadness, community, sharing, all in a safe space where we can finally not be lost. a space to be free, to love by no ones rules without fear or condemnation. we are a community of seven - sometimes more - sustaining and accepting one another and never closing our doors to others who are in need of what we possess. it may not seem like much to some, but it is everything to us.

open yourself to the possibilities of community, of individualism, to facilitating acceptance and care for all who are in need of just that.

CINECENTA
DOLBY STEREO

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
2:30 MATINEE, 7:00 & 9:20



RANSOM

LATENITE
THE PRINCESS BRIDE
FRI & SAT LATENITE 11:40

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6:45 & 9:30

Secrets & Lies

KIDS MATINEE SAT & SUN NOON!
Lion King

TUES & WED
7:10 & 9:15
UNDER THE DOMIM TREE

THURS
7:10 & 9:15
FARGO

from our min

birth day

this smoke and darkness reminds me
of your invitation
and my fire hot blushing smile
of sleeping bags, leatherjacketjeans
and t-shirts tugging, tangling together.
firelite shadows and whispered love
hoping no one would look beyond the circle of light
and see that your tent was empty

i remember the fire in the cold air
burning anticipation onto my cheeks
i remember our hugs and touching
not too close or too long 'cause they weren't drunk enough yet
i remember holding your hand through the stumbling and zippers
bareskin and your cold leather jacket
touch press kiss taste turn
the almost too drunk pauses
so our world will stop turning inside out
the warm flannel and cold noses
the bite scratch of your teeth and nails

and then your boyfriend who asked me to stay
and i said no three times
i don't have a place here between you
even if there are enough pillows
and i said no, no, nevermind
just let me go

so i slept in a tent alone without a pillow
my silver breath hanging like dreams
in the air.

and i left the pieces of my skin under your fingernails
and brownred hair in your sleeping bag
and my smell on your lips
and i remember the next morning he asked you please
wash it off cover sex with perfume
and you said no and licked your lips across the table at him
and i left a kiss of warmth on your bitten back
and lipstick on your jacket and jeans

and a part of me was born that night
with all the pain of my frozen silver dreams
and i left my sock and it's keeping that part of me warm somehow
in the memory folds of that sleeping bag in your closet

~sugarmommy

falling down deep
for G.

you are long ago and far away
tonight there are no fairy tales to guide me
you are miles high and i can't breath up here
-this thin gasping heart pounding giddy height
i remember

i remember falling in a circle of arms
laughing
scared to be both near and far

i remember the soft push of hips
and deliberate closeness in private publicness
hiding behind obvious friendship and blind
boyfriends
our communication, a code of looks and eye
contact
until full body contact began.
never spoken but hush baby hush

our hearts falling
and we are no where
we were somewhere in between
in between everything
between lovers and friends
between definition and disaster
between watchful redneck eyes
colouring between the straight lines.

we were between the sheets and pillows
between ground and sky
between curtained windows and locked doors
between the seats of my car
lost between imagination and achievement

we were fast friends and slow lovers
and i love you even when you are defined -
attached
a phrase complete with an engagement ring
i will always be the modifier
unspoken

~sugarmommy

mother

cut yourself in half
leave your real life behind
fill in the negative space with
lies
nihlism or self preservation?
the fine line
Who are you?
really?
I can see through you
you can't see through me
If you could
see, see me
would you like what you see?
Question
Answer
lets not find out
not now
i'm scared
you're unprepared
we are one another
in hell.

~natalie rae

"I saw you kissing some girl the other nigh
That's so cool," he said.
No, I told him, it isn't 'cool',
I like her.
Perhapes you think it's cool
because it turns you on,
the sight of two women making out.
Or because bisexuality is trendy
these days.
But you've never sat down
beside me just to tell me
how cool it was
to see me kissing some boy.
This is not a trend,
this is me.

~Gillian Atherton

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ls and mouths

Enter

i see your thighs
opening
opening wide for me
saying enter
enter me.
nter my soul
my mind.
y organs are my mind
at is where it all begins.
know me
very inch
ry tiny curve of my
d
which is my body
my soul
es of pleasure
of pain
f stimulation.
my mind
let it engulf you
y
wild
is too much.
opening thighs
ning minds
anticipation....
er me.

rae

mental confession

here i am in bed
Drunk
alone
(as well i should be)
She smiled at me again tonight
and amidst the dripping hops
and the oozing nicotine
She alighted at my side
a vision amidst the drunken stupor
and i felt so filthy for my thoughts
inebrieated libido scarcely with-
held
teeth tearing my lip in silence
She looked at me without suspicion
despite the bawdy surroundings
and i blush at my insinuated vul-
garity
scarlet
for the merest hint of impure inten-
tion

~Nic Meeson

not touching

this is a story about a tongue
and a nipple

our bodies
not touching
but the metal through your
tongue is caught in the metal
through my nipple

our bodies are
arching away from each other
my mouth is open
we do not make any noises

~Anna Swanson

bi sense

If I can't throw you against the wall and bite you
what good are you?
You can't always do that to a girl,
Just might have to find me a boy
or somethin like it...

If I can't talk to you and tenderly hold your breast
you won't do it for me
Challenge my sensibilities
(Please)

Fuck me senseless
except...
but,
well...
oh forget it,

do all these complexities make this fantasy unrealistic?
Here I sit, a lone bisexual...

~Tathra Street

missing

my love is sleeping in an airport tonight. my love is far away
from home. she is missing me and thinking about the skin on
my shoulders while she watches the pudgy, white-haired
ladies pushing luggage carts as stand-in walkers and disinter-
ested people in suits who flip the edges of the financial sec-
tions of fat newspapers and stir their coffee 'til it's cold.
families are bursting at the seams with bags and books and
maps and hats and jackets and money and cameras and food
and who keep wandering away from each other and finding
each other in the crowd. she is missing me and seeing me in
the faces of everyone swirling around her and in the silences
of the rushing crowd. she is thinking of me sleeping here
without her, naked and alone. my love is in an airport
tonight and i am missing her too.

~sugarmommy

lip dancing

warm carmel girl
blushes as i kiss her
velvet belly
giving her a slow feline bath
and rain is listening
smiling
we are prisoners of steam & melting con-
crete
she is love laughing
and we are two Eves
licking sacred apples

~sugarmommy

(Rant)
Heterosexual privilege

the issue lesbians inevitably raise when discussing bisexuals, doesn't break down along lesbian/bisexual lines. A closeted lesbian lawyer who spends her free time researching mutual funds and doesn't say anything when colleagues make homophobic jokes, has far more heterosexual privilege than a bald bisexual woman who would rather eat shit than be mistaken for straight and whose favorite shirt says "suck my dick"

~Zillah

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION
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GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

PROUDLY SERVING THE GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

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10th Anniversary Issue

A Retrospective of Reactions

by Christina Harris

As this issue will be the tenth queer issue of *the Martlet* done by the various incarnations of the LGBA and it's predessors I thought it would be interesting to look back over the past 10 years to bear witness to the changes our community has gone through.

Every year following the Queer Issue it seems that from the deepest darkest realms of this campus come creeping the homophobes. While the LGBA, as a rule, is not free from their attacks, the letters to the editor submitted by these, our favorite fools, are traditionally an amazing showcase for the most (now how do I say this without inciting more...) creative logic and fallicious statements I usually have the pleasure of coming across.

I thought perhaps our readers would enjoy a preview of what's to come, so here are a few of my favorites from the archives of *the Martlet*.

~"Lastly, I would like to address the word homophobic. Stop calling me that. I am not scared of queers or the thought of queer sex. Simply, it nauseates me....

Steve Gallagher,1992

~"I am tired of being bashed for being a heterosexual, for the constant insinuations that because I am a woman in love with a man, that I have "sold out" and am "denying my true feelings", and I'm sick of the glamourization of homosexuality on this campus. I believe that I can be considered an average heterosexual, who isn't homophobic.....

Marla Kozar, 1992

~"Why is it that a few of you neo-gays have to make it your life-long ambition to make the rest of us like you?.....

Andrew O'Brian, 1992

~"I was saddened when I saw that much of the last Martlet was devoted to a "celebration" of homosexuality. I know that there are many people (including some friends of mine) who have struggled with sexual perversion and Valentine's Day issues like that one do not help the situation.....

David Garthshore, 1990

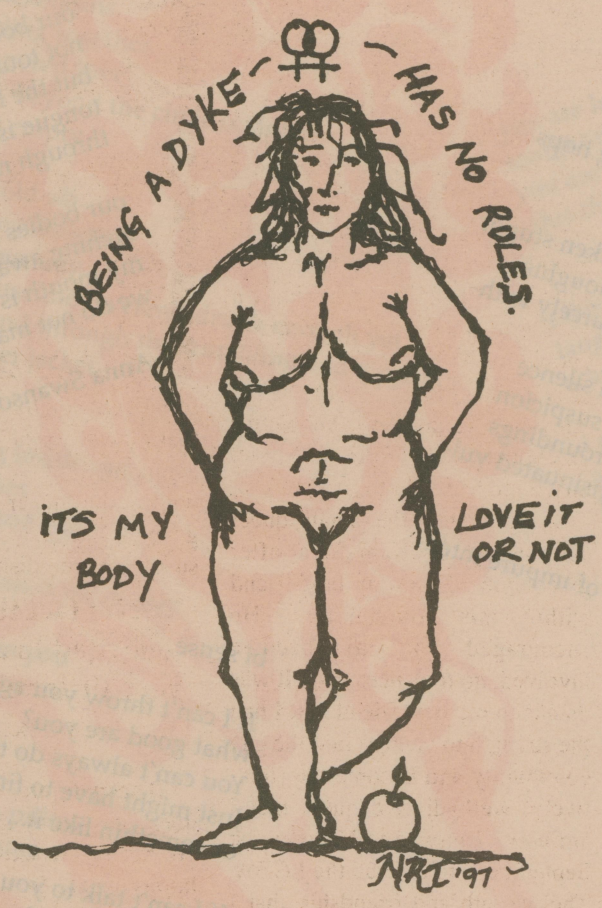
~"It appears to me that anyone condemning homosexuality for any reason is immediately labeled as "homophobic" or "sexually insecure".....

Bruce St. John, 1989

(editor's note: and this is a problem because?????)

~"A gentleman identified as Vincent Stone attributed the growing numbers of homosexuals and the downfall of Westren Civilization to the smoking of marijuana in an open forum at the Social Credit convention Friday... and told the delegates that cannibis contains the female horomne estrogen, which affects male users... UVic's Gay Focus Club responded to Stone's comments with laughter.".....

Vikki Flawith. Martlet Staff. 1979.



bi bi buttons

*100% Bisexual 100% Queer
*How long do you think I can stay in this phase?
*Double your pleasure, Double your fun
*Everyone thinks I'm gay!
*Everyone thinks I'm straight!
*Two roads diverged in a wood and I took both
*Have your cake and eat it too!
*Bisexual by luck, Queer by choice
*I like girls better
*Variety is the spice of life
*Kinsey had a limited imagination
*It's my revolution and I intend to enjoy myself
*Well, I don't think you exist either
*I just do this to seduce gay men
*I'm bisexual and I am not attracted to you
*Hate patriarchy, Love men
*No, you can't watch
*If you think my room is a mess, you should see my sex life!
*Love knows no boundaries
*I AM out, Thank you
*Gender is a sex toy
*Assume nothing
*Follow your nature
*He's the femme
*You didn't offend me, pissed me off.
*Equal opportunity lover
*No one believes I'm bisexual
*And what's wrong with a little promiscuity?
*BEWARE: NON - MONOGAMOUS BISEXUAL APPROACHING!!!!
*I recruit
*We're not fence-sitters, we're bridge-builders
*You may be confused but I'm not
*Be careful!! You could be next!

~ Sugar Mommy

Bisexual Babbles

by Tathra Street

I'm glad to see more bisexual representation than in past years. It's a nice change from feeling like I was the only one pushing for bisexual visability to thinking, "Wow there are out bisexuals that I don't even know!!" Although I still feel isolated (perhaps because I have not been as involved in queer activism as last year), I'm glad to know that being out as bisexual is not as taboo as it seemed before. People joke about how "trendy" bisexuality has become but maybe it is a good thing that more people are questioning the heterocentric crap we are fed all our lives.

Despite the increased bisexual visiblity there is still a lot of work to be done. I still think the queer community in Victoria in general is lacking in understanding bisexuals and how we fit into the community. There are two points I want to make in this regard. Firstly, Rumours, yes, the gay bar that has become a place where even queers feel outnumbered by "straight" people. I was talking to a guy about the issue and he was saying that most of those straight people had had some sort of homosexual experiences. I respect that and encourage bisexuality by all means but the fact remains that Rumours doesn't even feel like a gay bar anymore. Personally, this bisexual would go to a straight bar if I wanted to express the heterosexual part of me. There is precious little queer safe space in this world and it deserves respect. I don't have any conclusions or solutions for this dilemna though I expect that this issue will evolve over time into some sort of identity politics debate.

Secondly, I have been asked to do a workshop on "Biphobia" for women. It is planned for a Sunday in early March at the G-Spot (aka Women's Creative Network). I hope that it will be an opportunity for bi women and lesbians (wherever the distinction may lie) to engage in dialogue about the effects of the stereotypes and assumptions that cause biphobia. It became most apparent to me that this workshop was important when a lesbian told me that she probably wouldn't date me because of a bad experience she had with a bisexual woman. Understandable but, OUCH! This needs more discussion! Hope to see you there! Happy Queer Awareness Week!

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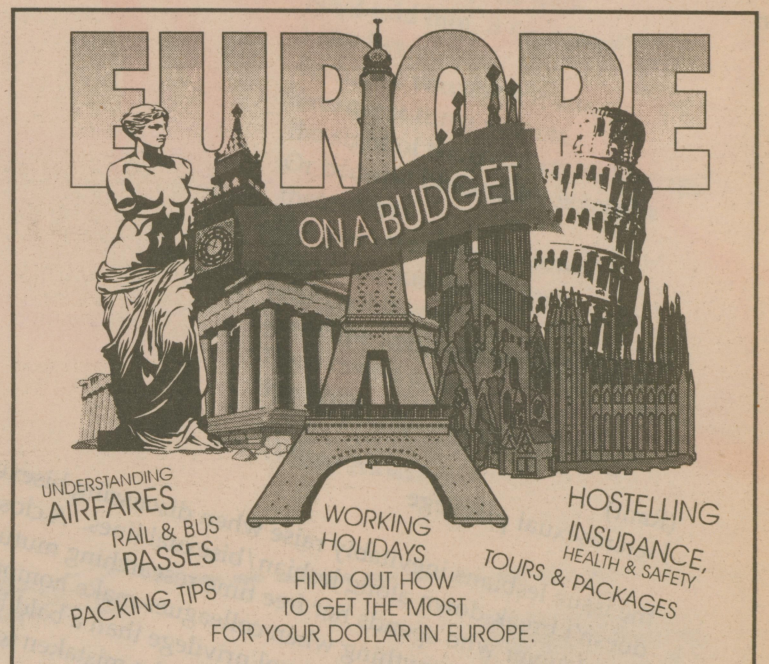

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Yes, I am Queer

~Nic Meeson

Let's establish the situation: I am a bisexual woman. I discovered my non-heterosexual nature at the age of 15. I repressed any feelings that were not considered "normal" until I was 17. I was so miserable with censoring myself that I finally decided to come out to my close group of friends. They were not only supportive, but they also felt closer to me because I trusted them enough to share a very personal side of myself with them. I was lucky to have such amazing friends. My hometown of Kamloops is not particularly known for its progressive thinking or benevolent acceptance. (However, Kamloops is known for its hockey cult-following and raised redneck 4x4 trucks.)

I discovered the small queer community in Kamloops after graduation. I met my best friend within this community. He encouraged me to become involved, go to dances, etc. It was thanks to my best friend that I had the strength to venture into the gay community and become the (relatively) well-adjusted queer that I am now. I moved to Victoria last September and entered the LGBA. The warmth and friendship that I received from its members is a dream come true. In late October, I fell in love with a wonderful person in Vancouver. In early November, he proposed. I accepted.

This put a whole new slant on my life. When I told my new queer friends here in Victoria, they were a little shocked but happy for me. I've never had any awkward feelings from my fabulous queer friends. (Actually, I should clarify that almost all of my friends and acquaintances are queer.) But within the queer community in general, I have encountered doubt, suspicion, and disbelief.

The fact that I am engaged to a man has very little relevance on my sexuality.

Bisexuals are often met with questions within gay culture. We are not heterosexual, but also not homosexual. Being neither one or the other, both the "straight"and "gay" cultures often have problems dealing with bisexual people. It is said that we are "indecisive," "freaks," or "not willing to take responsibility for being 100 per cent gay."

Bisexuality is also considered to be very trendy in today's culture. I have often been told that the only reason that I am attracted to women is because men think it's kinky and if I'm bi then I'll have a better chance of catching a man. Wrong. I am attracted to women because the female of the species is beautiful, sensual and different from men. It is this fundamental difference that bisexual people recognize and we accept both genders as beautiful, not for their broad stereotypical aspects, but for each individual's unique qualities.

I have been told that since I am engaged to a man that it means that now I must be straight. Wrong. I still find both women and men attractive, but I am in a committed monogamous relationship and therefore no longer pursue other people.

So... I'm engaged and I'm still bisexual. The fact that I am engaged to a man has very little relevance on my sexuality. They say that you have no control over who you fall in love with. I've fallen in love with women and with men. It was only a coincidence that my soulmate happened to be male. It could have gone either way...no pun intended. ▼

Excuse me?

by Jaden Braniff

My current living situation, to some might be seen as dangerous and wrong. One question: EXCUSE ME?

A month ago, I was asked by a co-worker to explain the workings of my relationship with my fiance. Well, being the person that I am, I decided to indulge her question. My fiance is bi-sexual and I am, for all intents and puposes, straight. She questioned how I would feel if my fiance wanted to be with another. At that point I stopped her in her tracks and explained that it would never happen; not because I might have a problem with it but because we happen to be in love and are faithfull to each other. To be truthfull, I have expressed to my love that I would never deny her anything that she thought she needed. Well, this sent my questioner off into a tangent about it not being right and how could someone do that? I was up for the argument.

I tried to make her understand that it wasn't her lifestyle that intrigues me; it's her.

The battle for information grew stronger as I tried to make her understand that it isn't her lifestyle that intriges me; it's her. Everything about her, makes me need her more; her mind and intelligence, her heart and soul and her raw exreme power. But above all this, her love for me is what I feel the most. The co-worker still couldn't understand. I think it was a simple case of ignorance. Then she hit me with the big question, "Well are you?"

I've thought about it yes. As a matter of fact, I've thought about it long and hard. Twenty-five years old and having grown up in a redneck society, I never did fit in. I listened to the typical stereotypes that went with the term "gay" or "homosexual" ; the sensitive nature, the musical tastes and the strong connection to my mother. I never took part in anything other than a male/female relationship. But when you don't understand something, you try to avoid it.

After my second chance for marriage died in a blaze of hatred and shame, I shut down and simply didn't consider anything but writing. No relationships, no questons, no fears only writing. I learned how to listen to peoples conversations and the meanings behind them. With time I began to understand, and with the help of my newfound love, that I just simply understood. Something that my mother drilled into my head was; hatred and mistrust have no buisness interfering with the relationship of a true friend. Love is everything.

So, when you feel the need to ask the question to your friends or co-workers, ask yourself something first. Are you asking to indulge your curiosity? or are you asking for the purpose of learning about yourself?

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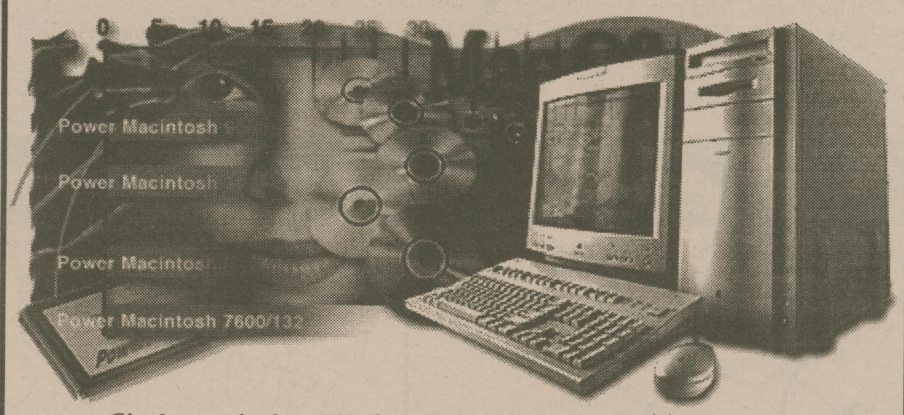

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Gai et Francophone

par Alain Jetté

Depuis le début janvier, j'ai une deuxième communauté. En plus d'être gai, je suis maintenant minoritairement francophone, ce qui me fait apprécier les deux encore plus.

Contrairement à la croyance populaire, je n'ai pas rencontré d'anti-francophones enragés, probablement parce que je parle déja anglais. Mais, beaucoup d'anglophones pensent que les Québécois sont des enragés qui sautent sur les touristes qui parlent anglais. Qu'on aille n'importe où, il y aura toujours des bonnes et des mauvaises personnes.

Pour ce qui est de l'université, je crois que c'est un des milieu le plus ouvert que j'ai rencontré au niveau culturel. En partie à cause de l'affluence d'étudiants de partout autour du monde. Parfois j'ai de la difficulté à réaliser que je viens du même pays et qu'ici est auntant chez mois qu'au Québec et vice versa.

Côté homosexualité, ce n'est pas un problème. En partie, parce que quand je rencontre quelqu'un, la première chose que je dis n'est pas: "Salut, je m'appelle Alain et je suis gai". Pas parce que ça me gêne, mais à cause des stéréotypes associés au terme. J'aime mieux attendre que la personne apprenne à me connaître avant. Malgré tout, je crois que les gens de notre génération sont de plus en plus ouverts.

Même que de nos jours, être "ouvert" est rendu à la mode. C'est "in" le sortir dans une disco gai. C'est "in" d'avoir des amis gais. C'est "in" d'avoir des aventures homosexuelles. Bon, et on a jamais pensé à ce que les gais en pensent. C'est vrai que si ça peut aider à l'acception des gais et l'abolition des stéréotypes, super! Mais si c'est une histoire de mode et qu'après on nous retourne au placard, non merci!

De toute façon, je suis un gai accompli, membre du LGBA et fier de l'être. J'ai participé à la marche du SIDA à Montréal l'automne passé et ma famille sait que je suis gai et m'accepte, m'apprécie en tant que tel.

Je suis toutefois désolé de voir le peu de participation du LGBA, comparativement au nombre de gai sur le campus. La même chose est aussi vrai pour les francophones de La Société Francophone. Beaucoup de gens ne ressentent tout simplement pas le besion de s'impliquer ou de partager leur culture, tant que leurs droits ne sont pas bafoués. Pourtant, nul besoin d'être militant ou quoi-que-ce-soit pour faire du social et avoir du plaisir. C'est aussi un besoin de s'informer, de connaître les nouvelles personnes et de profiter de nos droits aquis pour lesquels nos prédécesseurs se sont battus.

'The Wanting'

Something shakes my world.
Two people have the same fantasies
pain
joy
pleasure
please, please, please.

There is no going back
I can't stop feeling around
use me
Train me
Feed me
only yours, only yours, only yours

My secrets hiding out, becoming acceptable
This is just what I am.
Create a friend
Stay far away
See my body
yes do it, yes do it, yes do it.

Destroying logical mistake, I'm pleased to know you
Are you the right man
Lets go on pretending
Don't stop and analyze
Make love to me.
you're the best sir,
you're the best sir,
you're the best sir.

How important is physical Touch
Just continue the fantasies.
you dial and listen intently
I dial and listen intently
For that moment we belong.
push us a little futher,
push us a little further,
push us a little futher?

~ Christian André

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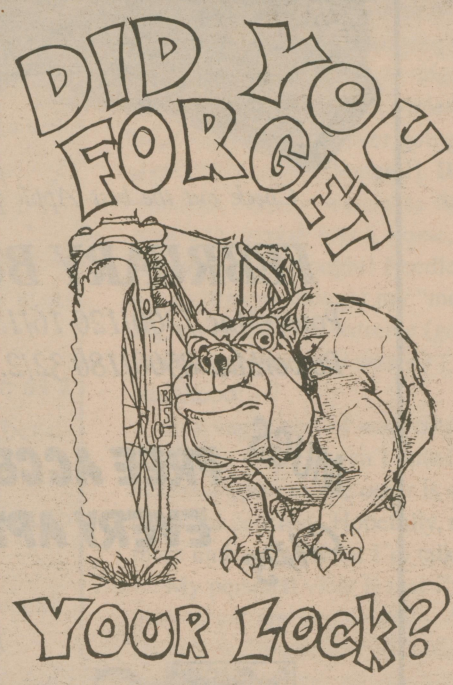

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Viva la Hankie

Box 333- Top femme into lipstick, leopard print and leather will be at Rumors on February ** after 12 p.m. wearing something metal and a black hankie in the back left-hand pocket of my vinyl pants. Don't talk to me, I'll talk to you.

by Jennifer McNeely

I'm not knocking soulmates. As a matter of fact I'd probably be the first one to jump on the bandwagon of eternal love and there is nothing that I'd rather do than wake up every morning to the smiling face of my perfect sweetie.

But I'm not holding my breath, and until that happens I'm not adverse to a little safe fun and fetish. However, when I'm out amongst the gay and happy crowd of kids at clubs, how am I to tell who shares my fancy for a little light bondage and role-playing?

The answer, my fellow fetishists, has been around for eons and one only has to tap into the wisdom of those who have forged before us. Since the cruising days of the '70s, gay men have been using coloured hankies worn in the back of their pant pockets to signal what they are looking for in the ideal bed partner. Different coloured hankies indicated various kinds of sexual play and fetishes, and left or right pant pockets distinguished whether the need was active or passive (left - I do it to you, right - you do it to me).

In this age of more freedom and choice

Although not as common as it once was, the colored hankies are finding their way into the back pockets of a creative new generation of queer kids, and this time the dykes are playing too.

In this age of more freedom and choice, we have become ever more specific in our tastes. When I see that cute girl across the room with the studded dog collar and half a dozen facial piercings (who knows how many more I can't see, mmm?), I want to know whether or not we'll be compatible when she comes home with me. Will I be expected to provide the toys (black hankie, her right pocket) or can I relax and enjoy myself (black hankie, her left pocket)?

**lavender-drag;
light blue-cock-sucking;
coral-toe sucking;
black and white
checked-safe sex**

Now, of course, S&M isn't for everyone, but what if you are a boy with a special hankering for all things western and would like nothing better than a little spurs and cowboy action? A russet brown hankie in the back or your wranglers should be just the thing to attract all the John Wayne wannabes out their looking for a little cowpoke just like you.

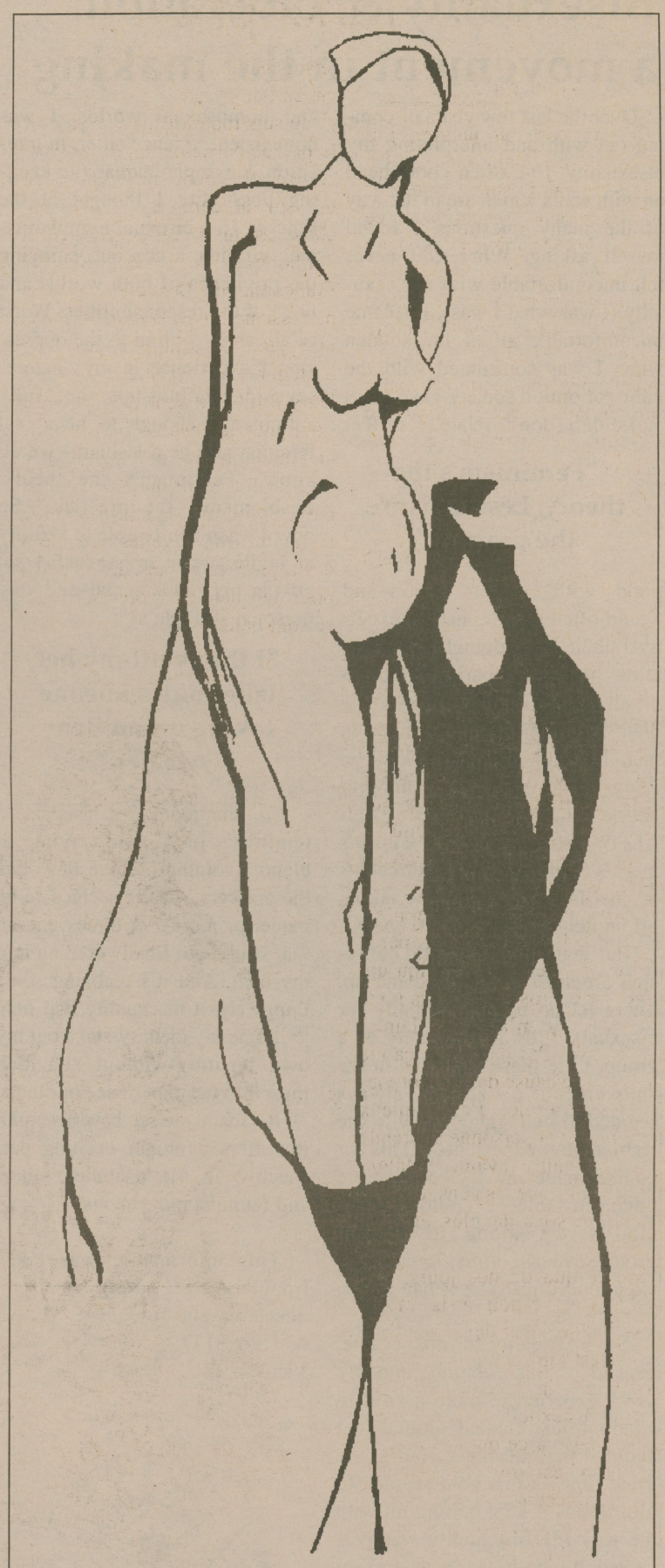
Although the list is only as official as the general consensus, here are a few of the codes and fetishes: purple-piercing; navy blue- fucking; fuschia-spanking; olive-military role play (left-top, right-bottom); yellow-watersports; beige-rimming; red-fisting; gold-threesomes (left-couple looking for single, right-single looking for a couple); lavender-drag; light blue-cocksucking; coral-toe sucking; black and white checked- safe sex; orange- anything you can dream up. And these are but a few.

A lot of these codes cater to boys but do not despair girls because you are only limited by the kinkiness of your imagination.

**yellow-water-sports;
beige-rimming;
red-fisting;
gold-threesomes**

Here are a couple of my suggestions to get you started. How about pink and blue for a bit of toy play (left - I'm the boy, right- you're the boy)? Or for the safest sex you could just stick to white for voyeurism (left - you watch me, right - I watch you). And for those Sci-Fi raver types how about a glow-in-the-dark green (left - I'm an alien, right- you're an alien)?

Now boys and girls, embrace your fetish and this should get you started. Although it may not be forever, it will definitely be good for some fun. So play fair and play safe, and Viva la Hankie! ▼



Zoé Sandell

Unpress

victim
master
servant
pushing the
penatrating
struggle
power
tie me up
and i lock you down
i am the passive
dominator
watching analyzing
every angle and
movement
stronger then you think
with my smiles and weakness
you are the pillar
but i have your keys
not to escape but
to be free

~ natalie rae

feel, feel, god damn it
feel what's wrong
with you no feeling too
much feeling
you're trapped in your
head and soon it
will explode think ivory
tower intelligentia
imagine explore stuck
in your brain exit
quick create in space
hands heart body
drowining suffocation
cut and bleeding dying
you're dying in a pool
of your own thoughts

~ natalie rae

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Bisexuality & Liberation: a movement in the making

Over the last few years of coming out with and interpreting my bisexuality, I've often come head on with walls which are in the way of the many questions I found myself asking. Whereas I never felt uncomfortable with my sexuality (I was what I was), I became uncomfortable all of the sudden when I was confronted with the either/or option society gave me.

I didn't (don't) relate to, or feel

"Feminism's the theory, Lesbianism's the practice"

good with, either option–and would often assume heterosexuality (albeit begrudgingly) because at the time my experience wouldn't allow me to come out as a lesbian. I was obviously attracted to men–I couldn't not be. I went on lying to myself until another option came up for me-BISEXUALITY-oooooh I gobbled it up-it's me-it's finally me! And I threw off my het label like someone taking off an itchy sweater (so to speak).

But that's when all this confusion around bisexuality come up. There felt to be little identity for bisexuals, little individuality as a group, little place for them in the "movement." They always seemed to be tagging along to the lesbian/gay experience. This of course made me feel even more uncomfortable. I couldn't conciously tag along to another group's ideas, aims, goals and experiences just cuz it had a ring of my own.

So, bisexuality for me became, instead of this "coming into my own" experience, more a void to where I just floated around and avoided the questions. And at the same time as this void seemed to blur things, I kept getting hit with the way my bisexuality was perceived by both the heterosexual and homosexual worlds. I was nonexistent, a fence sitter, in transition, a nymphomaniac (an exciting possibility I thought at the time–at 16 a bisexual nymphomaniac virgin!), a cop out, enjoying the privileges of both worlds and none of the responsibilities. Worst of all, as a -blind to the oppression I experience in my "heterosexual" relationships, not fully enlightened enough to be a real feminist and be a lesbian - we all know "Feminism's the theory, Lesbianism's the practice." So now I wasn't fully able to identify as legitimate in my sexuality-but also in my fundamental–and very personal struggle as a .

"I threw off my het label like someone taking off an itchy sweater"

So, where am I? a bisexual? a feminist? In a void, trying to blend, avoiding the questions cuz the answers already seemed to be made for me. After three years in that void–I am finally coming into my own. And it's realizing some things about bisexuality that help to define my identity-stake out my own territory-without attaching myself to the experience of others.

It's made me see how bisexuality offers a unique-exciting perspective in the anarchist, queer and feminist movements.

This information was taken from the *Sheela na-gigs zine*.
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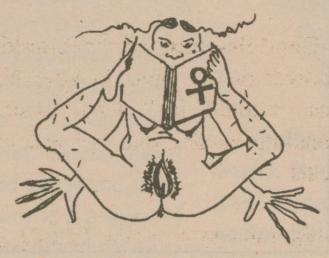

On anarchism, identity, uniforms and fucking: A dialogue with five women

A haphazardly and sort of collectively edited set of excerpts from a conversation among some anarchofeminsts about being queer

On Voice

Janet: we should just go with it. My name is Janet and this is my voice
Amber: My name is Amber
Laura: And she rarely talks like that....my name is Laura.
Genna: My name is Genna and this is my voice.
Tathra: I'm Tathra and this is what I sound like and you can tell.
J: So, we want to discuss what it's like to be queer and anarchist...do we want specifically anarchist activism or gay or both - DIY, punk shows?
T: Why don't you go first
J: I was thinking, as I was telling somebody that I was speaking to earlier–just putting a queer analysis on anarchism.
G: Being an anarchist and being queer really puts a different perspective on what it means to be queer, and on my perspective for being involved in a movement - I'm interested in changing my whole way of life and the system as an anarchist, in which case, for me, as a queer person, my issues aren't like getting queer people in the military...my interests as a queer person are challenging the whole system - not only sexism, racism and colonialism, but also homophobia and basically the unacceptance of anything that's different. So my perspective as an anarchist I think directly changes my perspective from a lot of queers.
L: Right, a lot of the queer movement is directed to like being incorporated into society.
J: Yeah the right to get married and the rights to certain high up jobs - some anarchists would say it's the corporate world that's the problem - getting women (or queers) in the corporate world is the same as fucking men in the corporate world.
T: To me being an anarchist means fucking the rules and challenging stereotypes and challenging the whole system, being queer kind of ties into that. To me it's like a natural link.
There's a lot of anarchists that don't have any analysis of homophobia or even sexism, but in the queer community, anarchism doesn't even come up - a lot of queers are into going shopping, or buying their dildo, or getting the latest leather jacket.
L: It's like any thing, right? There are a lot of people who only fight as much as they have to fight.
A: For me being queer isn't really a part of my activism at all...the queer community's so lame.

On Community

J: The anarchist community is lame too.
G: Why is it lame?
A: The anarchist community is lame to me because it's so like young angsty white punks talking about being an anarchist but not doing anything. And then the activist scene is lame because it's people who want to have rallies...they just want to look like they're changing things
So you're an anarchist and you do nothing, you just have good politics, or, your an activist and you do lame stuff.
J: To get careers
G: I won't accept that my politics have to be separated like that. I can't separate myself into pieces. I think that's our role, taking the holisticness of our political selves, as feminists, as queers, as anarchists. If other people who aren't anarchists can work in the queer movement within the system then we have a definite role in challenging that as just a new system of domination.

On Fucking

L: I have a question. Anarchist queer politics - what is it beyond the liberty to fuck whom you choose?
J: That's a good fucking question

On Identity

J: That's the thing with the word queer. To me it doesn't mean your bisexual, or like gay or anything. It just means you don't fit into the whole heterosexual forced identities of male and female.
G: This brings up another issue...that we don't talk about sexuality in our society.
T: I do.

On Uniforms

G: We have to have a uniform, we have to change our whole personal style and sense of self - this unspoken language to let you know who has the go-ahead, and who doesn't.
A: How many of us look like queer anarchists? If it's only a theory then you shouldn't be able to tell - right? But you totally can.
L: Isn't that sort of a natural thing though? To distinguish yourself from the mainstream culture that oppresses you?
T: I don't think if people look at me or even when I talk about my politics they have to necessarily label me as that [a queer anarchist] - and I don't care. I don't want to wear the uniform.
A: Being able to tell if we have the same viewpoint is important.
L: Don't you think it sometimes preempts discussion though? People put on the uniform and then never do talk about it?
[general agreement]

On a Touchy Question

L: And I wanted to ask a touchy question. It's about that whole political sexuality thing. People who say they are bisexual - politically?
G: Because our community is oppressed we feel like we've earned our right to be out - we've taken a lot of shit for people to take on our identity for fun. But...we want to live in a world where people can do that, experiment and be open to being whoever they want to be.
J: There's always going to be people in every little labelly stereotype who are flaky assholes...a lot of people just say it too, tight, that there are all these people who think they're queer and they're really not...it's old news. If someone wants to pretend that they're queer, I could care less...

[Party guests arrive. No resolution is reached. That's life.] ▼

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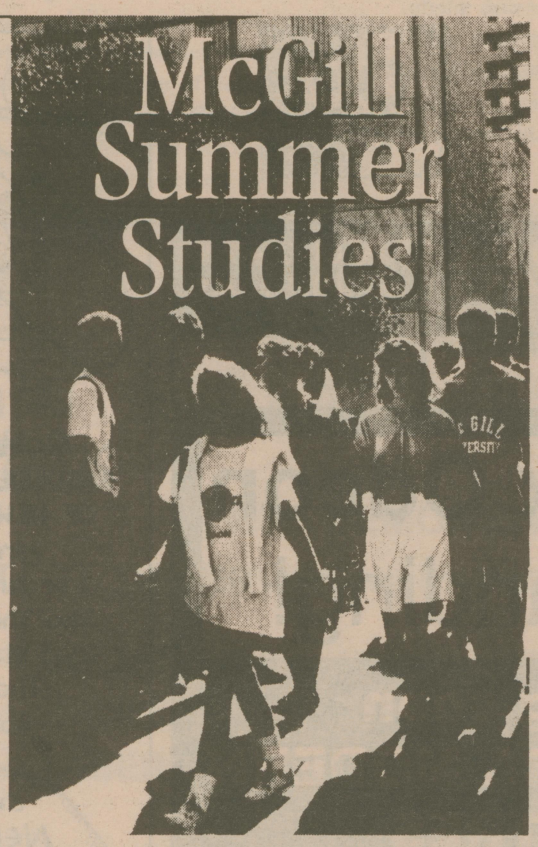

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DEADLINE:
FRIDAY AT 4PM.
RATES PER LINE:
STUDENTS: $1.00
NON-STUDENTS: $2.00
BUSINESS: $5.00

Special Edition Queer Issue

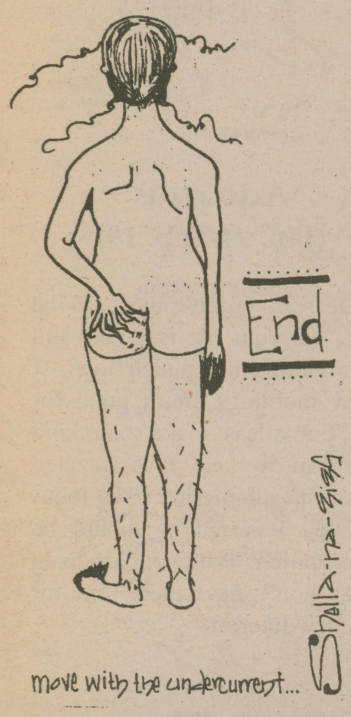
▸ On Campus! ▸

FEBRUARY 14th 1997 :

V–alternative Groove Fest in Vertigo night club @ 9pm. The Women's Center and the LGBA host. Tickets are $4.00 in advance, $5.00 @ the door. Local band D.I.G.G., Anti Fashion Show and silent Art Auction. 50% of proceeds go to (Women of our people) Slanis Fe Wilnew Lte Native Sexual Assault Center and Family Support Services. The other 50% goes to the Women's Center and the LGBA and the Women of Colour.

▸ Notices ▸

Rally/Protest - in Nanaimo against Bob Ringma- Come and protest the homophobic and racist comments made by Bob "Back of the shop" Ringma, free bus ride to and from Nanaimo leaves UVIC @ 10:30 AM and returns @ 4:30 PM. For more info call Chris @ the LGBA 721-4393, or drop by the Resource center and ask.



Voices of Fire Affirmative Press Group-call for submissions from self identified people of colour and First Nations people. Anti-racism insert in the Martlet February 27, 1997. Info: call 370-1032(voice mail only)

VIPIRG vibes - next issue March 6, 1997, deadline for submissions February 25, 1997. Call 721-8629 for more info.

▸ Queer Community ▸

FEBRUARY 14th 1997:

Neighbors in Nanaimo-Valentine's Party.

BJ's- The Lover's Lounge- Have a full course dinner in the lover's lounge and dance the night away. Call 388-0505 for details and to make your reservation.

Friends of Dorothy's Cafe- Special Valentine's Day Menu served all night. Reservations recommended Call 381-2277.

Rumors Valentine's Party.

FEBRUARY 17th, 1997:

Sweethearts Dance (Women only) Leonardo da Vinci Centre, 8pm. ph. 388-6036.

FEBRUARY 21st, 1997:

Rumors Women's Night 8PM to 11:30PM

▸Meetings▸

FEBRUARY 17th, 1997:

The Pride Community Center Project Steering Committee will meet in the Training Room at AVI @ 7PM. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and join in the work of the Committee.

FEBRUARY 23rd, 1997

Gay & Lesbian Parenting Group meets @ 2PM Parents, children, co-parents, and those thinking of parenting welcome! Call Natasha @ 384-6252 or MJ @ 383-2607 for more details.

UVic LGBA - Social Meetings: Coming Out? Want to network with other queer people? Come to the LGBA office @ 3PM on Tuesdays

▸ Resources▸

-**UVSS LGBA**:
regular events and support/social groups, drop- in centre/office: SubB118
phone: 472-4393
-**UVic Sexual Assault Center:** Uvic SUB B027. ph 472-4388.
-**AVI**
304-733 Johnson street. ph. 384-2366
-**UVic Women's Centre**: Uvic. SUB. B107. ph. 721-8353
-**Peer helpers counselling services**: Uvic. SUB. B003. ph. 721-8343
-**Gay and Lesbian Phone Line** - P.O. box 8568, Stn. Central, Vic, V8W 3S2.
ph. 598-4900
-**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays(PFLAG)** P.O. box 5474, stn. B, Victoria V8R 6S4 ph. 642-5171
-**Gay Alcoholics Anonymous** - 383-0415

▸Gay-Friendly Business▸

-**Friends of Dorothy's Cafe**: 615 Johnson street. ph. 381-2277
-**Cook's Out to Lunch Expresso Deli & Ice Cream** Bar: 246 Cook street. ph. 389-1963.
-**Rumors Cabaret**:
1325 Government street. ph. 385-0566
-**B.J.'s Lounge**: 642 Johnson street. ph. 388-0505
-**EveryWomen's Bookstore**: 635. Johnson. ph. 388-9411
-**G-Spot**: Women's Membership Bar/Lounge. Call. 382-SPOT
-**Fiddleheads Cafe and Bakery**: 1284E Gladstone Ave. ph. 386-1199
-**Body Piercing** - Ernie: Call before 9pm. ph. 388-4572
Sports
-**Lesbian Drop-in Basket-ball** - 380-6617
-**Lesbian Drop-in Bowling and Softball** -595-7179
-**Musaic** - Gay, Lesbian and Allies choir - 480-0024

Leaky Eye Designs - custom made clothing for your body, tops, bottoms, overalls, capes, bleeding pads, hats, anything...Laurie Sluchinski 477-2692

▸ Hey You!!▸

-**Chris** - This is just a little Valentine's message to tell you that I love you with all my heart. Happy Valentine's Day, Love. Mark.

-**Chris**, you beautiful woman. we kissed and never talked again.oh that crazy party! lets chat next time. from another femme girl..

-**Denman dykes** and little folks ! thanks for all the good times and support. i love you roomies! -gnat.

-**Mr Bus stop man**-you make my eyes roll into the back of my head!!! -Bus stop boy Dan.

-**Good Smelling Girl**-you hold the power of the pants in your heart, can I touch it??? Can't wait till reading break...love the dyke with cats.

-**Thank-you** to all the Martlet staff who helped pull this issue together!! - the LGBA.

-**Mark** - You are the best, love forever, Chris...

▸ Classified▸

For Sale

Mealworms-Excellent food for fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, hedgehogs, hampsters, rats and humans. $2 per 100/ Call 598-4543.

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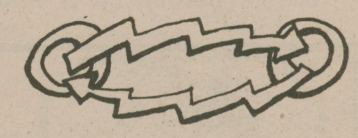

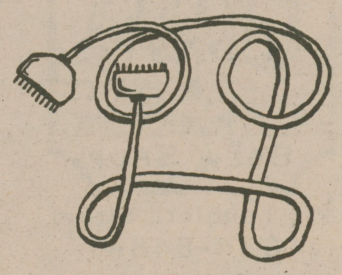

LGBA
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance
Student Union Building - B118
University Of Victoria
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3
Office - 472-4393
http://kafka.uvic.ca/~lgba/

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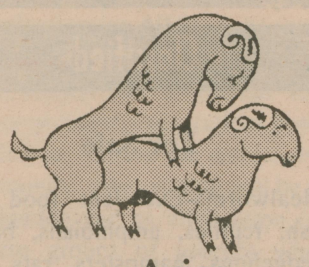
Two awards of $2,000 are available.

The Fellowship must be taken in the 1997-98 (July 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998) academic year. A research award is restricted to Masters or Ph. D level candidates. A language training award is open to third year and above undergraduate students or graduate students.

Application details are available at CAPI, Begbie 131.
Deadline is February 28, 1997

HOMOSCOPES:

Princess Nicotiina's Fabulous February

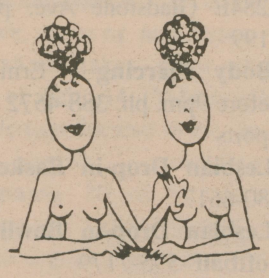


Aries
(Mar. 21-Apr.21)

Okay Ram, you've been playing a little too rough with your toys lately. Ease up or you could do some permanent damage–and nerve endings don't always grow back! That, or buy some decent lubrication. Treat yourself, you're worth it! Good news, this month promises multiple opportunities for erotic *tete-a-tetes* with that forbidden flame.

Taurus
(Apr.22-May 21)

You know, you're getting a bit too bull-headed for your own good, and honey, it is not doing anything for your social life! In your search for the golden goose, you are passing up a virtual gourmet menu! Take a chance on that dark-eyed beauty you keep bumping into. I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised.

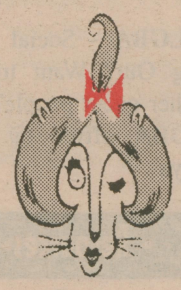


Gemini
(May 22-Jun. 21)

Your love/hate relationship with cleaning is turning into some sick obsessive-compulsive soap opera. Instead of grunting and groaning on your knees to scour soap scum off your hardwood stairs, invite your mate to help you 'polish' the tile on the foyer floor... or anywhere else that strikes your fancy.

Cancer
(Jun. 22-Jul. 22)

Darlin', I've got two words for you: hot wax. If the forces that be intended for us to wear a constant natural pelt, then we never would have invented the epilady. Although it does seem like fun to walk around as human velcro, Halloween is only once a year my dear. Get rid of the absorbent outer layer, and watch for a sleek stranger noticing your newly revealed physique.

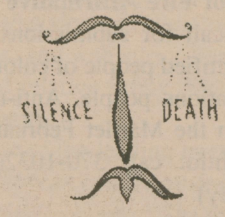


Leo
(Jul. 23-Aug. 23)

Well my little pussycat, you've been awfully naughty these past few months. You've been delving into the realm of the excess headfirst, and while sleeping in and missing a class or two on occasion is a luxury that you can afford, a five day Haagen Daz and Doris Day film binge is pushing the envelope. Try to drag yourself into the daylight for a few hours of productive activity, you'll love who you discover at the gym.

Virgo
(Aug. 24-Sep. 22)

My dear Virgin...who are we kidding, you're a virtual aficionado of local flesh. Slow down honey, or you'll have to stake out new hunting territory. And the only uncombed territory for you is Esquimalt. Let's try something new, shall we? How about...monogamy!! Honestly, the next time you wake up in a strange bed, stick around long enough to discover the person's name. It will come in handy...

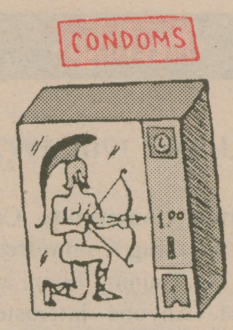


Libra
(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

I know that decisions are not your strong suit, but stop waffling and make the damn decision! If you keep dragging it out, you'll never find out the secret to the crying game. Pick one or the other, and don't keep them both in the dark. It's fine to date one of each of your fancies, but to make it easier, I'll give you a hint...it's the one you don't expect.

Scorpio
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

That barbed tongue of yours is striking close to home for your social circle. Everyone enjoys a witty slam now and again, but you're turning into a real bitch. Let a few people closer and let them get to see the real you. By showing a softer side, that elusive creature you've been coveting will draw near enough to touch, *et cetera*.



Sagittarius
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Always the center of attention and fashionably cutting edge, but don't you think the diva act is wearing a little thin? We understand that you live for excitement, but playing the perpetual drama queen in public is draining to say the least. Get home, kick off your heels, put on some sweats. Take time for yourself. This month is good for personal recuperation.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

If you were any more chipper, you would be a Saturday morning cartoon. Get off the NyQuil and calm the fuck down! Take a few deep breaths and try to compose some kind of apathetic '90s facade. If you stand still long enough you will realize that someone has been trying to get your attention for a very long time.

Aquarius
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Dearest, I don't mean to be rude, but your life is a joke and your hair is the punch line. I know mornings aren't good for you, but at least make some kind of effort to beat that frazzled mess into submission. The focus for you this month should be organization. With your affairs in order, you'll have more time for that new interest.

Pisces
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but apparently you kiss like a fish. I find this disconcerting, and the course of action I suggest is experimentation. Liven things up a little. Try role playing, toys, condiments. And encourage your partner to join in. Follow this course of action and you'll find evenings at home to be infinitely more interesting.

Illustrations courtesy of *Xtra West*

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